

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I would like to thank Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Kline for their leadership.

This legislation provides funding to schools, non-profits, and other education-related organizations that assist students in the completion of college and associate degrees.

My amendment will take this bill to the next level and prioritize grants to schools and organizations that have shown a dedication to ensure student veterans have the support and resources they need to complete their degree.

Our veterans, who have selflessly served our country, deserve every opportunity to succeed when they return home.

We should make every effort to ensure that their transition from service to civilian life is smooth and successful.

To that end my amendment will prioritize schools and organizations that support our student veterans and help them apply the skills learned in military service to the classroom.

I thank the schools and organizations who already take steps to increase education opportunities for our veterans, and hope that my amendment will support their efforts and provide an incentive for others to join them.

Rutgers University, the state college of New Jersey, has been on the forefront in my home state providing much needed education opportunities to our servicemembers.

Most recently, they created veterans' services offices, mentoring programs, special orientations, and advisory boards to better assist our state's veterans obtain the college degrees and

certificates they deserve.

I hope that this bill pushes more colleges and universities across the country to support our veterans in the future.

George Washington said it best, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciate by their country."

Thank you Madame Chairwoman, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Once again I want to thank Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Kline on all their hard work.

I would like to urge my colleagues to vote yes on my amendment and I yield back the balance of my time.